

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 77%

Generally cloudy sky with Light rain

Sensex 66,988 | Nifty 20,133 | Gold 62,730 | Silver 78,000 | Dollar 83.39 | Euro 91.19 | GBP 105.86



SHIFTING FENCES

Lakes in city vulnerable due to incomplete fencing

PAGE 5



COUNTER CURRENTS

Urban air showing signs of improvement, data says

PAGE 6

Transport operators flag flaws in proposed hit & run law noting it will exacerbate shortage of drivers, cause supply chain disruptions

THE LAW-DOWN

'If accused flees after causing fatal crash, they can end up in jail for up to 10 years'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Transport operators of the state have raised their concerns regarding the proposed legislation on hit-and-run cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. They are deeply apprehensive about the potential ramifications of the legislation.

As per the new provision, if any accused causing a fatal crash flees from the site without reporting to authorities, they will end up in jail for up to 10 years and will be required to pay a fine.

However, there is a lack of clarity on how the potential accused informs the authorities in a situation where they may face the risk of people's ire at accident spots. Presently, accused in hit-and-run cases are tried under Section 304A after their identification alongside up to two years in jail.

Travel operators noted that while the intent behind introducing stringent measures to address hit-and-run incidents may be benign, there are significant lacunae in the proposed law that require urgent reconsideration.

All India Motor Transport Congress, the apex organisation of motor transport operators affiliating state/regional associations,



strongly protested the provisions and noted the many flaws within the law.

"India is currently grappling with a shortage of drivers in the transport industry, which is around 27% in the country. The stringent provisions, including a 10-year jail term, have the potential to discourage individuals from entering or continuing in the driver's profes-

sion. This could exacerbate the existing shortage and lead to disruptions in the country's supply chains," the organisation said in a statement adding that the proposed law has been introduced without any consultation with stakeholders, particularly representatives from the transport sector.

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Organic matter



Increase in number of organic stores indicates change in consumer preferences, study says

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Thanks to a growing interest in health-conscious and environmentally friendly food options, the demand for organic products has been on the rise in Bengaluru.

According to a study conducted on organic food product firms in the city by researchers from Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK), there has been an increase in the number of such stores over time, indicating a change in consumer preferences and the rising demand for organic products.

As per the study, out of 40 stores that were studied by the researchers, the majority were new establishments that were set up between 2017 and 2021.

"2017 witnessed the highest number of new store establishments, accounting for 25% of the total stores followed by 20% in 2021. This result indicated that there was a significant expansion of the organic food market during the period between 2017 and 2021, potentially influenced by increased

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

The proposed law does not outline a comprehensive investigation protocol for hit-and-run cases

— All India Motor Transport Congress

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Traditional art

Renowned Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra and her troupe, the Nityantar Dance Ensemble, are all set to present their captivating Odissi dance production. The performance titled 'Colours of Krishna' is part of the Margazhi Bengaluru by Medai. Mohapatra is known for her inventive choreographic skills and her adeptness to keep her audiences engaged.

Where: Medai-The Stage Bengaluru, Koramangala 5th Block; When: Today



02 Graceful twirls

Get ready to embrace a graceful Kathak performance by Nidhika and Sonali Loomba this week. The event is organised and supported by ICCR under the Every Friday Cultural Evening Programme (EFCEP). The duo has performed at TEDx, the New York Kathak Festival, Kerala Arts and Crafts Village, and NCPA Varkala, to name a few. Where: Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan When: Friday, December 29; 6:30 pm

03 Comical view



The Indian Institute of Cartoonists is all set to organise a unique exhibition, showcasing some of the old, new, and rare cartoons and photographs that will be featured in the second edition of IIC magazine. It includes the works of RK Laxman, Shankar Pillai, Abu Abraham, Paul Fernandes, Hemant Morparia, and more. The first issue of the magazine was launched last year as part of the 15th anniversary of the Indian Cartoon Gallery. Where: The Indian Cartoon Gallery; When: January 6, 2024

What wastewater says on state of covid

Around 96% of city's wastewater has tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 over last two weeks, across 26 sewage treatment plants, reveals study

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The Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) has been conducting sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in Bengaluru for almost two years. Also, in the recent first meeting of the cabinet sub-committee, it was announced that the sewage surveillance should be continued by TIGS with regular sharing of reports. In the recent surveillance report by TIGS, the city-wide Bangalore wastewater positivity rate for SARS-CoV-2 was around 96% in the past two weeks, December 11-22 across 26 STPs.

Out of the 26 sewershed sites, 25 were found to be positive. High viral loads were found in the STPs of Hulimavu, Doddabellur, Nagasandra PH1, Yelhanka, Halasuru, and Cubbon Park. However, Dr Rakesh K Mishra, Director of TIGS, pointed out that the high positivity rate of locations is not what has to be looked at, but instead the overall results of 25 sites that have shown positivity.

He stated that one more site could also turn positive in the coming days. "The fact that the viral load has increased is what needs to be focused upon, which means we are at the beginning of a wave. We have actually been seeing an increase in viral patterns for 3-4 weeks. Many are asymptomatic cases, and they do not get themselves tested, but they can be shedding their virus in the wastewater that is from their households, which is the result of a high viral load. The new subvariant of omicron JN.1 is more infectious, and we need



According to the report, out of 26 sewershed sites, 25 were found to be positive

Guidelines released by the Commissioner of HFW

The Commissioner of HFW, Randeep D, released a circular outlining new precautionary measures and guidelines.

1. All symptomatic close contacts should be tested.
2. Covid patients admitted to home isolation should be visited by doctors or paramedical staff from the namma clinic, phc, or uphc to assess their medical condition.
3. Covid patients admitted to the ICU should be monitored

4. The district death audit committee should meet and audit covid deaths up to date.
5. All public hospitals should have covid isolation centres, including ICU beds, to treat covid patients.
6. CT scans will not be used as screening tests anymore.
7. Flu vaccinations will be provided to doctors and paramedical staff in public hospitals.

to be watchful," he said.

As per the surveillance by TIGS, the SARS-CoV-2 copies per ml viral load was low between June and October this year, which is below 1,000 SARS-CoV-2 per ml. However, there has been an increase in trend across sewer shed sites in December, going to around 3,000 SARS-

CoV-2 per ml.

He noted that unlike the first two waves, where the cases were extremely high and people lost their lives, the situation won't be the same this time. "The first two waves were affecting the lungs. But in the third wave with omicron, the virus had become milder, and it was affect-

Covid cases

Karnataka reported 158 covid-positive cases on Thursday; this increased the total active cases above the 500 mark. The total number of active cases is now 568. Bengaluru has the highest active cases, with 414 covid-positive cases. On the brighter side, no covid deaths were reported on Thursday, and the number of total tests conducted was high, with 8,350 covid tests carried out.

ing only the upper respiratory tract. Even though cases went up, they were mild in nature. And by then, vaccines had also helped people. There was also a fourth wave, which was the silent wave, where in between cases went off, but with booster doses, the population was protected. This could also be like a silent wave, where a large number of people might be affected, but their condition will be mild and many will be asymptomatic," he explained. However, he mentioned the need for vulnerable populations—those with comorbidities and the elderly—to be cautious and take the utmost care by wearing masks, social distancing, and avoiding any gathering.

Speaking about what initiatives the government can take to curtail the virus, Dr Mishra said that the government should keep a watch and carry out environmental surveillance in every city so that we know how the virus is increasing and decreasing. "If someone is symptomatic, they should be tested for sure. Surveillance like wastewater surveillance along with clinical testing should be done so that we know the variant. The government should also be ready," he said.

PGs in discussion over adopting covid guidelines

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As PGs await state government guidelines on covid management within PGs, the PG association is mulling over issuing their guidelines.

To avoid a severe spread of covid, PG associations are in the discussion stage of issuing a few covid guidelines. These guidelines will be based on Covid Appropriate Behavior (CAB), is-

sued by the state government last year. Given the spread of covid in the nearby states, PG associations are planning to create more awareness about the subject. "We are discussing some measures to address the possible spread of covid. Currently, we are not seeing any situations, but after viewing the situation last year in PGs, we want to take all necessary precautions. These measures would be advised to spread a major spread and would be advised in case of covid spread. In cases of an increase



in covid cases in the PG, these guidelines would advise PG owners to ask tenants for tests," said the PG association.

To look for any symptoms in tenants and take necessary precautions. Mask-wearing and oth-

er covid-appropriate behaviours would be advised, especially with tenants with public transport usage. Concerning the out-of-state tenant, during admission, their travel history could be questioned. If and when the Karnataka Health Department, or BBMP, issues guidelines, PGs will incorporate them as well, it added. They are also planning to conduct awareness drives in Bengaluru PGs, but the decision will be taken after next week.

There are nearly 20,000 PGs in Bengaluru.

Police crack down on party stash

Two separate drug peddling rings busted as police get behind ensuring a clean NYE bash



As many as 1,200 CCTV cameras installed around 2 km radius of MG Road, Brigade Road, Church Street and Residency Road

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Police personnel in and around Bengaluru are on high alert ahead of the New Year's celebrations and will be keeping an eye out for unlawful activity and drug peddlers.

In the run-up to New Year's eve, the Nelamangala Police searched a residence and detained four drug peddlers based on a tip off. According to sources, the accused had received a large number of orders for NYE.

Gangondahalli Anil (21), Andrahalli Karthik (18), Naveen (20), and Dombarahalli Manjunath (19) have been detained.

Nelamangala Rural Police have also seized two kg marijuana, two bikes, and knives from them.

During their initial questioning, the police discovered that the four accused had taken a large number of orders from them. According to the authorities, the accused used to supply drugs at hotels, dhabas, lodges, and parking lots.

The arrested men were involved in a number of incidents, including wheeling and robbery. The authorities are inspecting their cell phones to determine their network and the source of drugs. During the interrogation, the accused admitted to distributing drugs in order to make quick money.

In another case, three individuals who hail from Kerala, involved in drug peddling were apprehended, and a substantial haul of prohibited drugs and

For the first time, city police plans to conduct blood tests for drug consumption for those involved in accidents

items, valued at approximately Rs 7.28 lakh, was seized. The CCB's anti-narcotics squad acted on information given by a source indicating the storage and preparation of prohibited drugs for sale in the Kengeri and Amruthahalli police station areas during New Year celebrations.

Following a raid, the team successfully arrested the culprits. Among the seized items were 170 gm of MDMA Crystal, 25 MDMA Ecstasy pills, 200 LSD Strips, 3 Kg 100 g of marijuana, two mobile phones, a weighing machine, and other items. Cases have been registered against them at Kengeri and Amruthahalli police stations, and the investigation is ongoing. They are accused of sourcing drugs at low prices from Odisha and Kerala and personally supplying them to known customers.

The City Police plans to conduct blood tests for drug consumption for the first time. The police said that these blood tests would only be conducted for passengers involved in accidents.

Traffic diversion

The traffic police have unveiled a plan to manage traffic and enhance public safety in Koramangala on New Year's Eve. Key measures include extensive road closures and parking restrictions to streamline the flow of vehicles and minimise potential disruptions.

YD Mutt Road, spanning from Sukh Sagar Junction to Mico Layout Junction, will be inaccessible to traffic. All intersecting roads, including Jyoti Nivas College Road, 4th B Cross Road, 1st Main Road, 17th H Main Road, 17th A Main Road, and 17th B Main Road, will also be closed.

No parking will be permitted on YD Mutt Road from Sukh Sagar Junction to Mico Layout Junction. Parking is prohibited on both sides of the road from UCO Bank Junction to NGV Back Gate

Junction. The stretch from Star Bazaar Cross (Smashana Cross) Road to Mico Layout Junction is designated as a no-parking zone. Public vehicles are authorised to pick up and drop off passengers at designated points such as the UCO Bank Service Road, Forum (Nexus) Mall front side, and Sukh Sagar Junction.

Motorists heading from Adugodi Junction to NGV and Sony World

Junction should make a left turn at Water Tank Junction. Travelers from Madiwala to NGV via UCO Bank Junction are advised to circumvent UCO Bank Junction, proceeding via Madiwala Sante Road and turning right at Ayyappa Junction. The traffic police have strongly encouraged the public to opt for public transportation or cabs over private vehicles on New Year's Eve.

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

₹218.75 crore project to enhance rail travel

SWR embraces modernisation with Automatic Signalling on the Bengaluru-Arsikere route, while citizen activists push for MEMU trains on circular railway, aiming to enhance regional connectivity

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The train travel between the busy Bengaluru-Arsikere section may become quicker as the South Western Railways (SWR) has finally decided to adopt automatic signalling. The Railway Board recently sanctioned the implementation of Automatic Signalling between Yeshwantpur and Arsikere, which is part of the Bengaluru-Hubballi railway line. The project, covering a distance of 165.86 kilometres, has been allocated a budget of Rs 218.75 crore.

Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer, SWR, said, "The Bengaluru and Mysuru divisions have been experiencing a continuous surge in demand for increased commuter trains, particularly in the Yeshwantpur-Arsikere section. The Yeshwantpur-Sampige Road section, constituting 107.21 kilometres and part of the Bengaluru Division, operates at peak hours line capacity utilisation of 118 per cent. Simultaneously, the section between Sampige Road and Arsikere, spanning 58.65 kilometres and falling under Mysuru Division, sees peak hours line capacity utilisation of 81 per cent."

Kanamadi also said, "Anticipating a manifold increase in both passenger and freight traffic, including food grains, fertilisers, POL, cement, steel, and automobiles, the automatic signalling project aims to boost line capacity significantly. This enhancement will enable the seamless operation of additional trains at shorter intervals, addressing the growing demands of commuters and fostering economic development in the region."

The project is expected to be completed within three years, aligning with the strategic vision of accommodating the projected surge in rail traffic over the coming decade. The implementation of Automatic Signalling is a pivotal step towards



SWR's Bengaluru ring construction plan prompts utilisation of the existing ring until superior alternatives emerge

modernising and optimising rail infrastructure, ensuring a more efficient and robust transportation network.

Meanwhile, railway activists have urged authorities to initiate train services on the circular railway around the city. Rajkumar Duggar of Citizens for Citizens stated, "We have requested the railways to operate Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains on the Cantonment-Devanahalli-Chikkaballapur-Kolar-Bangarpet-Cantonment railway line, in both directions alternately. These services aim to provide significant assistance until better alternative options are available in the next three to five years, including the larger ring network currently planned by SWR. With the remaining electrification work along this ring nearing completion, it is appropriate to run MEMUs around this circuit."

Duggar added, "This approach can offer substantial relief to numerous commuters along this route, ultimately reducing traffic congestion on the roads. Additionally, it would benefit the Railways, generating revenues from increased patronage and alleviating pressure from long-distance trains accommodating local

commuters. All trains are proposed to start and return to the same ring and dedicated platform at Cantonment. The key features of the suggested service include stops at all intermediate stations, operation on all seven days of the week, proper maintenance with adequate water

“This enhancement will enable the seamless operation of additional trains at shorter intervals, addressing the growing demands of commuters and fostering economic development in the region” – Manjunath Kanamadi, chief public relations officer, SWR

supply, high punctuality, availability of monthly passes, presence of TTEs, Police Staff, etc., and a maximum two-minute stop at any station, except at Cantonment and Bangarpet, where a longer stop is needed for the reversal of trains. Furthermore, at Baiyyappanahalli, the platform should allow easy pedestrian access

to Baiyyappanahalli Metro Station."

The SWR's plan to construct a ring around Bengaluru motivates the utilisation of the existing ring until better alternatives are available. The focus is on efficient local services, with Cantonment favoured over Baiyyappanahalli due to its strategic location, city centre proximity, good road connectivity, and established bus services. As the 4th Railway Terminal, Cantonment suits local services. Ongoing projects like Cantonment-Whitefield quadrupling and Baiyyappanahalli-Hosur doubling enhance integration within the proposed ring. Bangarpet, a major junction, experiences a significant daily commuter influx.

Advanced plans for doubling the Yelahanka - Devanahalli track by SWR are underway. Implementing punctual, frequent, and reliable services around this ring is expected to alleviate traffic congestion, offering economic, safe, eco-friendly, fast, and comfortable commuting for towns and villages. The ring connects three major Bengaluru stations - Cantonment, Baiyyappanahalli, and Yelahanka. As rail infrastructure improves, the potential for additional services becomes feasible, he said.

Most 'organic' stores set up between 2017 and 2021

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

consumer awareness, changing dietary preferences, and a growing demand for organic products. Overall, the distribution of store establishments across the years showcased the growing popularity and potential of the organic food market in Bengaluru," noted the researchers.

Among various types of organic products, fruits, vegetables, and oils turned out to be most sought after,

followed by frequent demand for cereals. "Millets also exhibit a varied demand pattern. While 35% of retailers said millets are very frequently demanded. The results of the frequency of demand analysis provide insights into the preferences of consumers in Bengaluru city for different organic food product categories. It is evident that certain categories, such as oils and milk products, have high and balanced demand, respectively," the study noted.

A diverse range of product certifications and labeling among organic food stores was also observed by the researchers. According to them, the presence of certified organic products is a positive sign, indicating adherence to recognised standards.

The study underlined that personal recommendations and experiences shared by friends, family, or acquaintances play a pivotal role in shaping consumer perceptions and decisions regarding organic food

products. "The results reveal word of mouth is the most influential source of information among consumers followed by social/digital media and stalls at exhibitions/trade. This information is crucial for businesses and marketers in the organic food sector to effectively target their communication strategies and leverage the most influential sources to reach and engage consumers," said the study published in Mysore Journal of Agricultural Sciences.

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Flyover filth

Hennur



Garbage has been accumulating on Hennur Flyover for the past couple of weeks.

Footpath issues

Jeevan Bima Nagar



JB Nagar Main Road has faced persistent debris and drainage issues for years, resulting in impassable footpaths. With a government school nearby, the safety of children is a growing concern.

Signboard error

Nandini Layout



BBMP can't even ensure the most simple thing - correct street signboards. The 4th cross is wrongly mentioned as the 23rd main road in Nandini Layout.

Pillion rider not third party, rules High Court

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Noting that a pillion rider is not a third party but a gratuitous passenger, the Karnataka High Court has reversed an order passed by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal at Kunigal in Tumakuru district. Justice CM Joshi in his order has directed Nizamuddin who owns the offending vehicle (a Hero Honda bike) to pay the compensation amount awarded by the tribunal.

Siddiqullah Khan, the victim who was in the scrap business was riding pillion on Nizamuddin's bike on March 24, 2011, from Kunigal. The Hero Honda bike fell into a ditch due

to rash and negligent driving by Nizamuddin, grievously injuring Khan. Khan was soon rushed to a hospital in Bengaluru, where he succumbed to injuries on March 26, 2011. After the incident, Khan's family members who had spent Rs 1.2 lakh towards his medical treatment along with other expenses had moved the tribunal seeking a relief of Rs 15 lakh. The tribunal on August 24, 2017, awarded Rs 7,27,114 as compensation with a 6 per cent interest. The National Insurance Company Limited was directed to pay the compensation.

The insurer as well as Khan's family had challenged the order. The insurer had argued that since it was an 'act-only policy', the pillion rider was not covered as he was considered to be a gratuitous passenger on the



two-wheeler and no additional premium was collected to cover him. On the other hand, Khan's family claimed that the tribunal had not looked into their claim petition satisfactorily.

"It is an 'act-only policy'; the cover is for the owner-cum-driver and is limited to Rs 1 lakh. Nowhere is it mentioned the pillion rider or the occupant is also covered under the policy. However, it is mentioned the seating capacity of the vehicle is '1+1', based on which the tribunal had fastened the liability on the insurance company,"

Justice CM Joshi pointed out while noting that the accident had occurred due to the negligence of Nizamuddin and no other vehicle was involved.

'Scrap high-mileage govt buses'

The HC has ordered that high-mileage government transport corporation buses should be scrapped for the safety of passengers and road users.

The order came on a petition filed by a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) driver who was convicted of homicide after the bus he was driving caused an accident in which two school-going children were killed.

Noticing that the bus had run for over 10 lakh km and was not in good condition, the HC issued 6 directions on maintaining KSRTC buses.

-PTI

No fence, none taken: City's lakes left unprotected

Lakes are at risk due to incomplete or broken fencing, posing potential dangers

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Fencing lakes is a crucial measure to protect and preserve these natural water bodies. However, many lakes in the city, as observed by concerned citizens, are not fenced. Recent walks by lake activists have revealed that several lakes, particularly in South Bangalore, such as Dorakere and Gowdanakere in Uttarahalli, and Anjanapura, Chunchugutta, and Kothanur in JP Nagar, have been identified as vulnerable spots due to the absence of adequate fencing.

The situation at Gowdanapalya Lake has raised eyebrows, as it remains without any protective fencing, essentially extending an open invitation to potential violators. A new gate installed at Kothnur Lake lacks sufficient fencing, leaving the lake ecology exposed to potential harm. Chunchughatta Lake, a rejuvenated lake, lacks adequate fencing, while Dorakere is said to have eight gateways to the lake. Konnanakunte Lake, rejuvenated in 2023, has a 100-meter boundary still with an old broken fence.

Activists emphasise that inadequate fencing poses a direct threat to the delicate balance of lake ecosystems.

Raghavendra Pachhapur, a lake activist said, "I have covered 4-5 lakes, and the issue of missing fencing is prevalent in the south zone. Anjanapura Lake, restored in 2019, is a prime example. It was rejuvenated without ensuring proper fencing, and now, the BBMP is contemplating spending around 2 crore for belated fencing. This raises questions about how a lake can be restored without adequate protection."



Broken fence around a lake in the city



BM's report on Dec 25 about lack of fencing around Avalahalli Lake

He further pointed out that lakes like Dorakere and Anjanapura were handed over by the Forest Department and Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) long ago, but their fences still have too many loopholes. "In Dorakere Lake, one could see a wide range of bird species. The lake has an island visited by many birds. To ensure that we keep seeing these birds and it becomes their natural habitat we should protect the lake and fence it. Odd timings to keep it open and not fencing it while allowing people

to come in anytime will only disturb the birds and ecological balance. Once we counted around 4,000 plus birds at Dorakere. Glossy ibis and cattle egrets were some of the species found. These are spaces we need to conserve".

Pachhapur highlighted the importance of following the recommendations of Justice NK Patil, emphasising the need for surveying and fencing lakes before undertaking restoration efforts. He emphasised, "Fencing is the first level of defence and protection for the lakes. We have tried to show Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) the loopholes in lake fencing. We urge the BBMP to revisit Justice NK Patil's recommendations—survey the lake, fence the boundaries, and then proceed with developments."

Similar issues exist at Avalahalli Lake in Yelhanka, where the lake fencing remains incomplete. Despite residents' complaints to the authorities, no action has been initiated. "Avalahalli Lake comes under

the BBMP jurisdiction though the land in which it is situated comes under the Singanayakkanhalli Panchayat area. The lake was provided with a fence on all sides but it was incomplete, allegedly due to some land dispute. We met Panchayat Development Officer (PDO), Ashwini, last week, who said that efforts are on," said V Selvarajan, Chairman, Green Circle.

Selvarajan further added that, in the meanwhile, the highway-side fence was damaged during the heavy rains on November 6. "We have raised a complaint in the Sahaya app but no tangible work is seen to happen. Now the lake is open to anti-social elements, unauthorised fishing and scooter parking in the bund area. We are still waiting for solutions."

R Rajagopalan, a trustee of Namma Kere Trust, said that there has been a fencing issue at Basavanapura Lake in KR Puram, Sarakki Lake in JP Nagar, and Somasundarapalya Lake in HSR Layout.

No one can take law into hands: CM

Advocating for prominently displaying signboards in Kannada, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah issued a warning on Thursday against taking the law into one's own hands, emphasising that while peaceful protests are acceptable, causing damage to government or public property is not. The vandalism on Wednesday received widespread criticism.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw shared on X (formerly Twitter), stating, "This soft-handed approach by the police is very troubling. I urge the Deputy CM to take action and keep our city safe."

Earlier in the day, a magistrate court in Bengaluru sent over 29 Kannada activists, including Karnataka Rakshana Vedike President T.A. Narayana Gowda, who were arrested following yesterday's vandalism, to 14 days judicial custody until January 10.

Reacting to the large-scale vandalism, Siddaramaiah said, "We are not opposed to protests. We will not oppose anyone who raises their voice against injustice or seeks justice but will take action against those who take the law into their hands."

Kannada boards are a must. This is Kannada Nadu, and the boards should be in Kannada here. We are not opposed to other languages, but Kannada should be prominent."

Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, acknowledged the right to protest in a democracy but condemned actions that violate the law. He expressed concern about the vandalism by pro-Kannada protesters and urged businesses to comply with the government's order of displaying 60 per cent Kannada on their signboards.



BM's report on Dec 25 about BBMP's orders to implement 60% Kannada on all display boards

There's a twist in air purity levels

City's air quality is showing signs of improvement, says data; current monitoring mechanism by KSPCB does not provide true reflection of reality, opine experts

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The daily Air Quality Index data recorded by seven Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMs) by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) in the city shows that air quality is improving in Bengaluru.

As per the data, while the concentration of particulate matter (PM) 10 has reduced considerably at five out of seven monitoring locations in the city in November this year compared to last year, PM 2.5 levels have also decreased at two out of five monitoring locations.

The highest drop in PM 10 concentration is observed on Mysore Road and near NIMHANS. PM 10 levels at both locations have dropped by nearly 28%. Hebbal station recorded a drop of nearly 25% in pollution by PM 10.

In the case of PM 2.5 levels, while Mysore Road station recorded a drop of nearly 40% in the concentration, Hebbal monitoring station recorded a decrease of 25% in the concentration of this harmful pollutant.

According to air quality experts, this year's winter months have witnessed above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures, and thus the concentration of pollutants has been lower compared to last year's values.

"This year, winter has not been as intense as last year due to the El Niño effect, and thus pollutant levels are lower compared to last year. However, this comparison should not be construed as a drop in pollution level overall," said a city-based researcher.



The highest drop in PM 10 concentration is observed on Mysore Road and near NIMHANS

However, some experts highlight guidelines by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) on the location of CAAQMS

stations. They say the current monitoring mechanism by KSPCB does not provide a true reflection of reality.

“The stations should be installed in different microenvironments. While the pollution values should not be exaggerated, they can't be downplayed as well”
—Gufran Beig, NIAS

They underline that while the values thrown up by the ten CAAQMs paint a rather rosy picture of Bengaluru's air quality, the number and position of monitoring stations in the city are not up to the mark.

They opine that most of the monitoring stations in the city are installed in relatively cleaner surroundings, away from emission-emitting vehicles or industries, leading to the air quality of Bengaluru being recorded as 'good' and 'satisfactory' throughout the year.

"The stations should be installed in different microenvironments. While the air pollution values should not be exaggerated, they cannot be downplayed as well. The traffic snarls and other traffic-related situations are as bad in Bengaluru as in other cities. Although it has a location advantage and pollutants get drifted towards the plain, a city like Bengaluru can't have an AQI of good and satisfactory," said Professor Gufran Beig, chair at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

Currently, KSPCB has 11 CAAQMs, covering residential, commercial, industrial, and silent zones in the city, and air quality is monitored round the clock for primary and secondary pollutants as well as meteorological parameters.

UGC demands probe into student's death

The University Grants Commission (UGC), the apex regulatory body for higher education in India, has written to the Chief Secretary of Karnataka to look into the death of the late student Aditya Prabhu and take appropriate action on Wednesday. The letter has been issued on the basis of a complaint filed by the All India Student's Union (AISU) on November 16.

Aditya Prabhu, a 19-year-old student, jumped to his death at PES University in July this year. The incident sparked outrage after Prabhu's family took to social media site Instagram and alleged mental harassment by the institute's authorities, leading to his death. Soon after, a police case was filed regarding the matter, and three faculty members from PES University have been charged with abetment of suicide.

Surya M, a third-year BTech Computer Science student studying at the Electronic City branch of PES University, is also reported to have ended his life by jumping from the college building.

Bengaluru-based social activist Dushyant Dube, assisting Prabhu's mother in the case, told BM that these things are parallely going on but no government authority has contacted the family yet. "The chargesheet was filed by the police, and PES University went to a HC to get it quashed," he said. **—BMB**

Trekker found dead

The body of a trekker who had gone missing in Savandurga Hill was found on Thursday afternoon. The man has been identified as Gagandeep Singh, who hailed from Uttar Pradesh and was working in the city. Forest officials, police, and locals have been looking for the missing man for the past five days, but he had not been found. The police, along with volunteers, were able to locate the body due to the smell of decay. Magadi CPI Giriraj visited the site, and a case has been filed at Magadi police station. **—BMB**

Call for justice: Truth behind wildlife deaths

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environmentalists and animal lovers on Thursday demanded the state government order an inquiry by a retired High Court judge into the recent deaths of two elephants. They demanded the state government ensure a free and fair inquiry into the deaths of wild animals in the last 10 years. They appealed to the public to stage a non-violent protest by wearing black armbands to express their solidarity with the two elephants killed recently.

"We appeal to the public to stage a protest on December 30 by wearing black or blue armbands to express

their solidarity with the wild animals killed in the state. We also appeal to the people of Karnataka to light a lamp in front of their homes on Saturday night as a mark of respect for the elephants killed. We do not want the public to come to the streets to stage the protest," said Parisara secretary Eswara Prasad.

It may be recalled that a wild elephant died at Mudigere taluk in Chikkamagaluru district after being darted with a tranquilliser dose during a late-night rescue operation conducted by the forest department. In another tragic incident, Arjuna, the elephant that carried the golden howdah during the Dasara procession in Mysuru, allegedly died in a fight with a wild elephant during the elephant



Activists held a candlelight protest earlier this month

capture operation near Yeslur in Sakleshpur. It is said Arjun died of injuries suffered in the stomach.

"The problem with the forest department is that it has failed to conduct a thorough inquiry into the deaths of two elephants. Their apathetic attitude leads to suspicion. The forest department did not follow the required norms to clear air among the public," said Prasad.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr MK Ramesh, retired professor, National Law College, said the forest department has failed to follow the norms while conducting elephant capture operations. "Conducting elephant capture operations at night is against the norm. As per the Supreme Court directive, elephants aged more than

60 years should not be used in the elephant capture operations. There was no wildlife veterinarian as part of the team engaged to capture elephants. Though human-wildlife conflicts have existed for ages, the number of human-wildlife conflict incidents has increased in recent years. The authorities concerned have to find out the reason for the increase in human-wildlife conflicts," he said.

HK Gowdaiah, an environmentalist, added that many animals were killed by humans, but not many of those incidents came to light. "It is unfortunate that the authorities concerned are defending their acts against wild animals. They are not ready to rectify their mistakes," Gowdaiah said.



More of us have tattoos than ever before. About 25 per cent of Australians are inked. A tattoo can be a large investment in time, money and pain.

So how do you take care of your tattooed skin? Here's what you need to know about sunburn, sweating and fading.

What's a tattoo, dermatologically speaking?

Tattoo inks are deposited in the layer of skin called the dermis. This layer contains sweat and oil glands, a blood supply, immune cells, collagen to support the skin's structures, and fibroblasts, which produce collagen.

Fibroblasts take up the ink particles, as do immune cells in the dermal tissue known as macrophages. The ink particles also stick inside bundles of collagen.

Between these three mechanisms, the dermis holds tattoo inks so well they can be seen even on the 5,300-year-old ice mummy Ötzi.

Can I get a tattoo if I'm sunburnt?

No, and many tattoo artists will not do it. During sunburn, your skin calls in extra immune cells and fluid to kill off and break down cells that have too much UV damage.

This inflammation can affect the tattoo ink deposits. You might not get the look you were after, with too much ink removed by your immune cells or swelling distorting the lines.

It's much better to be proactive about sun protection before a tattoo, or at least be patient and reschedule when your skin has healed.

How soon after my new tattoo can I go into the sun?

There's not much research on how soon you can expose your new tattoo to the sun. However, most tattooists advise you to avoid sun exposure while the tattoo heals, generally about three weeks.

This seems sensible, as your fresh tattoo is a type of wound.

Because the skin is damaged by inserting a needle, it's not too surprising that the most common short-term complication is local inflammation with swelling, redness and discomfort at the tattoo site. There is an influx of immune cells to deal with the damage, much like a sunburn.

So, in one way, you should treat your new tattoo like sunburn and avoid sun exposure while it heals.

But you shouldn't use sunscreen on the tattoo in that time. That's because sunscreen can enter the dermis through the puncture wounds and cause more irritation. Cover your new tattoo with loose clothing instead.

What happens if my tattoo gets sunburnt?

Sunlight-induced reactions to

INKING FEELING

Want to get (another) tattoo? What you need to know about sunburn, sweating and fading



both new and existing tattoos are common. There's usually swelling, itching or stinging on the tattoo site that can start immediately or develop over the course of a day. We're not really sure why this happens.

Most of the time, these reactions are unpleasant but don't require medical treatment, much like sunburn.

There is also a small amount of evidence that sunburn on a tattoo temporarily suppresses the skin's immune system, allowing an infection to become established.

Do tattoos increase my risk of skin cancer?

Some ink components, such as mercury or carbon black, are suspected cancer-causing agents when used in other applications. However, there's no evidence skin cancers are more likely in tattooed skin.

Tattoos make newly-developed skin cancers more difficult to detect. Besides making the lesion more difficult to spot in the first place, the colours of the tattoo interfere with your doctor's assessment of the colours in the lesion, which can be an

important sign of cancer.

So it's a good idea to get familiar with the moles and freckles on a patch of skin before you're inked, and check them yourself once a month for changes.

Red tattoos seem to be more prone to large but benign (non-cancerous) skin tumours called keratoacanthomas. These appear within a few months of tattooing, and often grow rapidly but then heal by themselves.

However, they can be difficult to distinguish from squamous cell carcinomas (a type of skin cancer). They can also damage underlying structures, such as nerves and muscles. So they often need to be removed anyway.

Can sunlight fade my tattoo?

As tattoos age, they can fade a bit as some of the loose ink particles filter deeper into the dermis. Sun exposure can also degrade ink particles. There's limited research on this in human skin. After all, most people don't want to fade their tattoos for science. So most of what we know is from research in mice.

However, modern tattoo inks give you a strong colour. So in practice, you might not notice any fading for years.

Does tattooed skin sweat differently to un-inked skin?

This is an important question, because sweating is a major way our body avoids overheating in the summer. If you've got a full sleeve or your whole back is your canvas, that's a significant amount of skin.

Since tattooing punctures the skin repeatedly, sweat glands in the dermis may be damaged.

But the research on tattoos' impact on sweating is mixed and depends on what you are doing at the time.

In one study, researchers used a heatable suit to increase study participants' internal body temperature by 1 degrees Celsius. Tattooed areas produced about 15 per cent less sweat. It's not clear if this is enough to increase the risk of heat stress.

However, when other researchers looked at sweating induced by exercise there was no effect in the volume of sweat between tattooed and un-tattooed skin.

Longer-term risks

When performed under the clean conditions of a licenced tattoo parlour, tattooing is relatively safe.

But long term, some people develop allergic reactions to certain colours due to the different compounds in each, most commonly red dyes. This can cause lumps, scales, scarring or other visible changes.

So, what's the most common long-term side effect of tattoos? Tattoo regret and wanting to have them removed.

(By Katie Lee and Erin McMeniman, The University of Queensland, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Daydreaming decoded

What happens in the brain

A mouse study published in Nature has taken a team led by Harvard Medical School researchers one step closer to understanding what happens in the brain during daydreaming.

Response to an image

The researchers monitored the activity of neurons in the visual cortex of mouse brains while the animals were awake and silent. They discovered that these neurons occasionally activated in a fashion similar to that seen when a mouse gazed at a real image, suggesting that the mouse was thinking--or daydreaming--about the image.

Furthermore, activity patterns during a mouse's first few daydreams of the day indicated how the brain's response to the image would develop over time.

Into the future

The study presented tantalising, if preliminary, evidence that daydreams can influence the brain's future response to what it perceives. The authors noted that further study is needed to establish this causal association, but the findings provide an intriguing hint that daydreaming during peaceful waking may play a role in brain plasticity, or the brain's ability to rebuild itself in response to new experiences.

On neurobiological level

"We wanted to know how this daydreaming process occurred on a neurobiological level and whether these moments of quiet reflection could be important for learning and memory," said lead author Nghia Nguyen, Blavatnik Institute at HMS.

Relax

These daydreams occurred only when mice were relaxed. Mice daydreamed more about the most recent image and they had more daydreams at the beginning of the day than at the end.

—ANI

Hitting new laws on the road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It noted there is an utter lack of an accident investigation protocol in the country. "The proposed law does not outline a comprehensive investigation protocol for hit-and-run cases. Clarity is required on determining culpability, especially in situations where a vehicle is struck from behind or the fault lies with the driver of the smaller vehicle. Without a proper investigation, unjust accusations against certain vehicles may prevail. Currently, an unsaid rule of blaming the larger vehicles is blindly followed

in the country, without probing who is really at fault. A fair investigation into the causes of accidents, rather than automatic blame on heavy vehicles, is crucial for justice," it explained.

The organisation highlighted that in many hit-and-run cases, the driver does not flee with the intention of evading responsibility for the accident but instead to safeguard their life from the potential threat posed by angry mobs and local residents.

"The lack of security on the road compels them to take such measures. It is noteworthy that in numerous

instances, the driver willingly surrenders to the police and undergoes the necessary court proceedings in accordance with the law," it said.

The organisation called on the Union home minister to reconsider the proposed law and suggested that a collaborative and balanced approach is essential to ensure justice is served without adversely affecting an industry already facing challenges.

Radhakrishna Holla, president of Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, noted that the driver's family becomes destitute as a side effect of the punishment they suffer,



in cases where they are the sole earner and the issue has not been investigated thoroughly.

He urged the Centre to withdraw

such a 'draconian code of laws' after realising the direct impact of the proposed law on the unorganised worker and their family.

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I, Praveena Kumar P K S/O, Kotrappa P R/o #187b, Near Government Hospital, Punabagatta Camp, Punabagatta, Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagara, Karnataka-583125 have changed my name to Praveen Kumar P K

I, Divakar Chaubey R/o F703, Purva Fountain Square, Marathahalli, Bengaluru - 560037 have changed my minor son's name from Parkhar Chaubey to Prakhar Chaubey.

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I Hafeez Mohammed Rizwan S/o Moham-med Yaqeen R/o behind Kalidasa high school, Gondihalli road, 5th Block, Koratagere Town, Tumkur District, stating that officially have changed my name to Hafeez Mohammed Rizwan from Moham-med Rizwan as in the Affidavit No.SUBIN-KAKA KSF-CL0813202147 391483V. In future any problem arise, i only the responsible for that. The above said facts are true & correct. Therefore, I have sworn before before Notary and Lawyer Madhusudhana .S.K, Koratagere on 18.12.2023.

I, Lakshmi Priya Tekkilapati W/o Aniketh Tekkilapati Nagaraja Naidu R/o #416, Hari Nivas, 29th Ward, M J Nagar, Hospet, Bellary 583201 have changed my name to Lakshmi Priya.C.G for all purposes

I Singh Gopalsingh Shri Babusingh S/O, Babu Singh R/o Flat No-103,slv Crystal Apts,4th Main,hebbal Kempapura,bhuvaneshwarinagar, Bengaluru, 560024, have changed my name to Gopal Singh .

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I, Venkatesh Goguladinne S/o, Gangulappa Goguladinne R/o No 5, 6th A Cross Manoranapalya Bangalore North R T Nagar Bengaluru 560032 have changed my name to Venkateshwaralu Goguladinne for all purposes.

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VIJAYAKANTH: August 25, 1952- December 28, 2023

Action hero who took on TN's political heavyweights

Captain will be remembered as unique leader who scripted his own success story

An action icon of Tamil films, Vijayakanth, who raised his voice against corruption on the big screen, made a rather smooth transition to politics and shone in a short period of time, raising hopes among his followers of seeing him become the chief minister of Tamil Nadu, before ill health got the better of him.

This cannon that boomed against corruption and at times even threatened to eclipse the two Dravidian majors in the state, finally fell silent on Thursday, leaving his cadres and adoring fans in grief.

Though the present DMDK general secretary, Premalatha, his wife, may face challenges in steering his party, Vijayakanth is a name that will not fade away in Tamil Nadu's politics or the film industry. He will be remembered for mustering the courage to take on former chief ministers and the state's political heavyweights M Karunanidhi and J Jayalalithaa in the political arena on his own terms and also hold his own against them.

Vijayakanth, who earned the sobriquet 'Karuppu MGR' ('Black MGR'), would perhaps go down in Tamil Nadu's history as a unique leader who scripted his own success story, dominating the political arena for about 18 years.

Whether it was the AIADMK or the BJP, political parties looked at his Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) founded in 2005



in Madurai, as an ideal force to take on the ruling dispensation during elections. But in recent times due to his frail health, the outfit has been putting up a brave fight to retain its presence as a regional party.

Both in Tamil films with over 200 movies to his credit and in politics too, he was characterised by his individual trait of opposing corruption or corrupt practices and in reaching out to the poor and those victimised. This 71 year-old leader maintained a clean image throughout his life and was known for his generosity.

"He appeared very promising as Leader of the Opposition in the state Legislative Assembly. We had high hopes that 'Captain' (as Vijayakanth was fondly called) would steer the party to victory and become the Chief Minister. But his political fortunes suffered a setback

Vijayakanth, a revolutionary artist who made his mark in cinema and politics, will remain forever in our memories – Kamal Haasan

after he walked out of the AIADMK alliance," a senior party functionary who shifted loyalties to the AIADMK, said. His last public appearance in the city was on December 14 when the party elected Premalatha as DMDK's general secretary.

Despite hailing from the Telugu-speaking Naidu community, Vijayakanth born Narayanan Vijayaraj Alagarwami (August 25, 1952) was considered quintessentially Tamil and the Tamils adored him as the 'Karuppu MGR' in contrast to the

very fair looking AIADMK founder (former Chief Minister M G Ramachandran). He was the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly from 2011-2016. He was also an MLA for two terms representing the Virudhachalam and Rishivandiyam constituencies.

This action hero of the 1980s and later years too, earned the nickname 'Captain' after his hundredth film: 'Captain Prabhakaran' and also the title 'Puratchi Kalaigarnar.' He won state and national awards for his films including the blockbuster 'Vaananthai Pola'. Movies like 'Ramana', 'Vallarasu, Simmasanam', 'Vaanchinathan' and 'Narasimha' captured the imagination of the people. After the formal launch of the DMDK on September 14, 2005, his party contested the 2006 Assembly elections and he was the lone victor. Interestingly, he fuelled his party with his own funds rather than raising funds to meet the expenses.

"When we aligned with the BJP, our leaders insisted that Captain be announced as the chief ministerial candidate. But the alliance faced the election without proposing the name of CM candidate," a DMDK leader said. During the 2011 Assembly elections, he forged an alliance with the AIADMK and won 29 out of 41 seats the party contested, apparently winning more seats than the DMK. At one point of time, he filled the political vacuum caused due to the defeat of the DMK. – PTI

Qatar commutes death sentence of 8 retired Indian navy officers

Detailed verdict not yet out; Indian ministry in close touch with family and legal team

The Qatar's Court of Appeal reduced Thursday the death sentence handed in October to eight retired Indian navy officers on spy charges, the Indian foreign ministry said.

Ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said in a statement the detailed verdict has not been received yet. "We are in close touch with the legal team as well as family members to decide on the next steps," he said. India's ambassador to Qatar and other officials were present in the Qatari court along with the family members and New Delhi will continue

They were charged with spying while working at Al Dahra, a consulting company in Gulf state

providing consular and legal assistance, Bagchi said. "We will also continue to take up the matter with the Qatari authorities," he said.

Qatari authorities provided New Delhi consular access to the eight Indian nationals during their trial.

Bagchi said no further comment was possible due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the case. The eight were charged with spying while working at Al Dahra, a consulting company in the oil-rich Gulf state that advises the Qatari government on submarine acquisitions, according to Indian media reports.

The Qatari government's media office declined to comment on Thursday's ruling. – AP

Trafficking case: Staff, passenger grounded

Four AISATS staffers and an Indian passenger bound for the UK were apprehended at the Delhi airport by CISF personnel for their alleged involvement in a human trafficking racket, a senior officer said Thursday. The incident took place on Wednesday at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport when the activities of a passenger, supposed to fly to Birmingham on an Air India flight, were found suspicious, he said.

The security personnel scanned CCTV footage and found that immigration officials first refused to allow the passenger as his documents were "doubtful" and they asked him to come back with airline officials for clarification, a CISF spokesperson said. The passenger, however, did not go to the airline staff but approached an AISATS staffer, he said. – PTI

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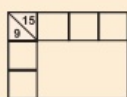
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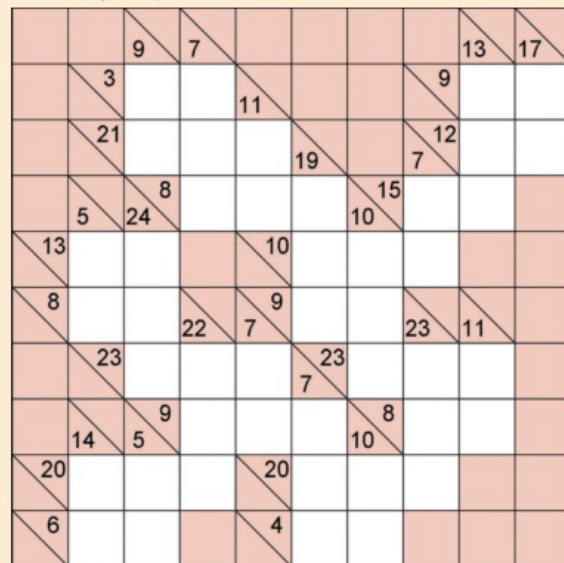
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

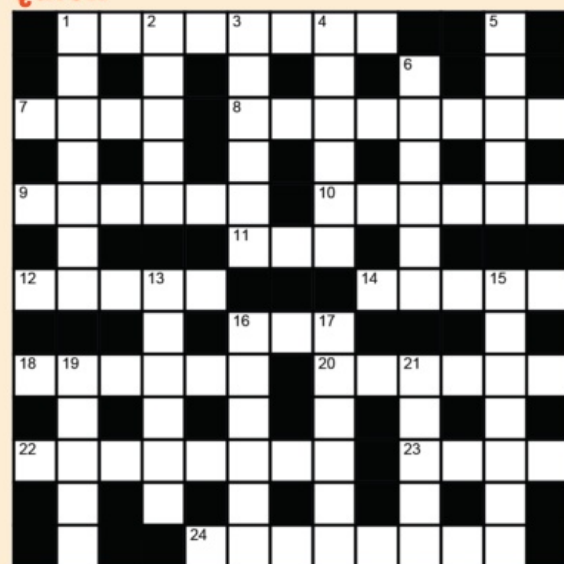


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Great crime (8)
- 7 India's desert region (4)
- 8 Paraffin oil (8)
- 9 Voices in complete agreement (6)
- 10 Drips, leaks or secretes (6)
- 11 Divine being (3)
- 12 Become red-faced (5)
- 14 Our capital New ____ (5)
- 16 Slender fish (3)
- 18 Asterix's best friend (6)
- 20 Waiting to receive visitors (2,4)
- 22 Learned, erudite or scholastic (8)
- 23 Berlin negative (4)
- 24 Entreating earnestly (8)

DOWN

- 1 Potable alcohol? (7)
- 2 Monsters (5)
- 3 ____ the grade : succeeding? (6)
- 4 Called or designated (6)
- 5 Perceive (5)
- 6 Take as read (6)
- 13 Join together (6)
- 15 Making a low steady continuous sound like that of a bee (7)
- 16 Left (6)
- 17 Horse-drawn carriage (6)
- 19 Northernmost district of Karnataka (5)
- 21 Capital of Vietnam (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS I
LWGPY SOP LQHS WTG QM
ZH XWT PVPXS QM QZUHP-
BAPH FHT'S CPUMPXSFT YZS
CUQRUPHH.



Linemaro

You will still be beautiful when you are older



Mindchow

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion



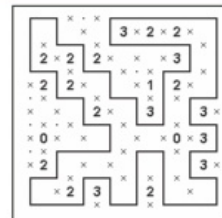
Joke of the day

Why do they have to put the title of the book on the top of every single page? Does anyone get halfway through a book and wonder, "What the hell am I reading?"

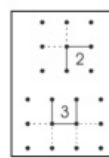
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

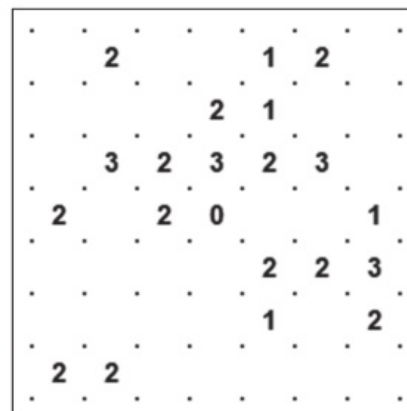


(Fig B) Not Allowed

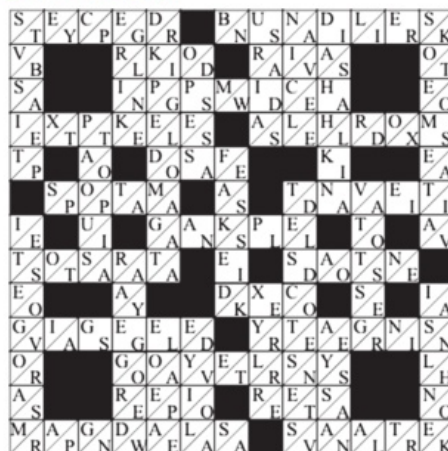
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



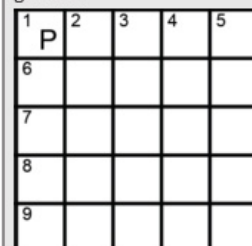
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

- 1 Us pot; 6 An ape;
- 7 Paler; 8 Raras;
- 9 A mail

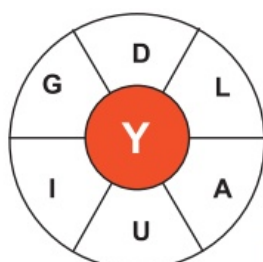
DOWN

- 1 Appal; 2 Or ape;
- 3 Namur; 4 Irate;
- 5 Lassa

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

5	7	4	9	8	2	7
3	8	6	4	7	5	9
9	6	1	4	5	8	?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$\square \square \square \square = 22$

$\square \square \square \square = 15$

$\square \square \square \square = 8$

Hard

$\square \square \square \square = 8$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Trunk is different. 2. Arm is shorter. 3. Bird is moved. 4. Camera strap is longer. 5. Man's sleeve is shorter. 6. Cap is different.

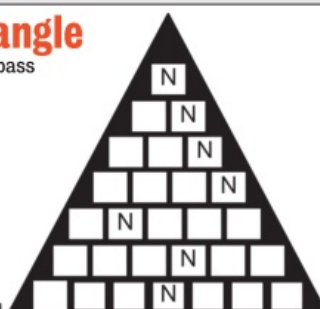
Riddler

This is a phrase some people can say every day. The thing you see with + The 12th letter of the alphabet + A white pigeon - The 4th letter of the alphabet + A female sheep + A word meaning \$1,000 + A thing used to clean floors - The 16th letter of the alphabet. What is this phrase?

Alpha triangle

- 1 North on the compass
- 2 Not out
- 3 Moral failure
- 4 Whirl
- 5 Shoot from cover
- 6 Has a view
- 7 Showy flowers

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

You may be happy. You may have some sort of energy that could enhance your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff. You may also plan for some higher studies to groom your career. Students may hear good news in competitive examinations.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon. You may feel healthy, which may reflect in your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of life, improving your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today, allowing you to make some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, the situation is under control. Your destiny may likely be with you in terms of gains in business. You may get rewards for your hard work. It may be a good time to restart your postponed projects. You may expect a peaceful religious travel. You may also plan to donate some amount to a religious place or charity.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, at the beginning of the day, it may be a dull day. After late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With the help of new people, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today your vital power may slow down, and your old disease may reappear, making you upset. You are advised to avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Avoid any type of litigations; settle them out of court. Try to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. You may also plan for an overseas tour.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, your moon is not in a good position, and you may have health issues. You may face losses in business or investments. It is advised not to invest in business, as gains may turn into losses. Stop making investments in worthless objects. Avoid getting involved in controversies; they will negatively affect you.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, with the help of blessings, you may gain control over your indecisiveness. Kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will translate into success in terms of projects. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaking, art, and culture may do well.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may make quick decisions, increasing your management skills, which may bring benefits soon. You may expect some new sources of income, boosting your savings. With the help of your business partner, you may invest some capital in the business. Your bonding with your spouse may increase, resulting in harmony in domestic life.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

You are blessed by the moon today, and you may expect to hear some good news in terms of your profession. Domestic life may be in full swing of joy. Avoid making arguments on worthless topics. Overexcitement may test your patience. You can make important decisions about investing in real estate. Students will be focused on their studies.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be busy with family get-togethers and social events. You may become polite with the people around you, which may increase your prestige among them. You may spend money buying some artefacts or household items, which may improve your social status. You may likely hear some good news from one of your relatives.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today you may be busy on the work front, making you tired and unable to spend proper time in family get-togethers. You may be able to create some overseas networks. Be careful in terms of investments. Job-related natives may get a promotion.

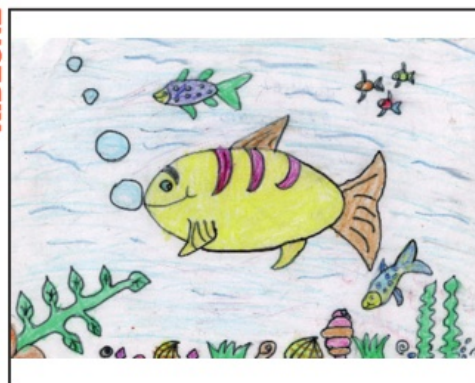


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. You may do better in terms of your professional life. Your friends and subordinate staff may support you. Investments in gems and jewellery may likely give positive gains soon. Be careful with the health of elders.



KIDZONE



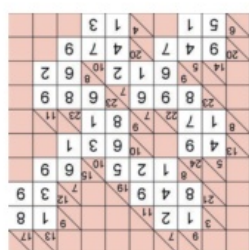
Nandini B H, 5 Years, Sindhi High School



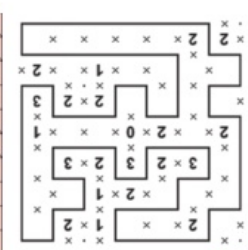
Shivansh, 5 Years, N C F E School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



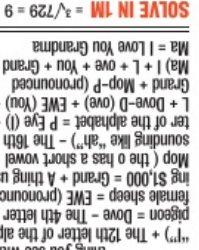
MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BUNDLES

So much action

Vicky excited about completing what he calls biggest action sequence of his career



Actor Vicky Kaushal on Thursday shared a couple of pictures from the sets of his upcoming period action film 'Chhaava' as he shot for the "biggest action sequence" of his career.

Taking to Instagram, Vicky shared a post which he captioned, "Last day on set for this year. Ending the year by completing the biggest action sequence of my career so far. 2023, you have been truly gratifying... Walking into 2024 hungrier than ever before! Chhaava."

Actor is shooting for period action drama film that also stars Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles

In the first picture, Vicky looked rock-solid in a heavy beard. He could be seen donning a black T-shirt paired with black jeans. He accessorised his look with black cap and matching black shades.

In the new picture, the actor is seen indulging in a conversation with the director of 'Chhaava' Laxman Utekar.

The period action drama film also stars Rashmika Mandanna in the lead roles.

'Chhaava' is all set to hit the theatres on December 6, 2024.

Reportedly, the film is a historical drama centered around Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Vicky and Utekar first collaborated for the romantic drama film 'Zara Hatke Zara Bachke' which also starred Sara Ali Khan in the lead roles. —ANI

Happy holidays



Actors Suhana Khan, Agastya Nanda, and Navya Nanda were spotted at an airport in Mumbai on Thursday, likely to be jetting off for their New Year's vacation.

Suhana was papped at the airport donning an all-black outfit. She wore a black cut-sleeve top paired with matching pants.

She kept her hair open and was seen carrying a handbag.

Navya, on the other hand, wore a white striped shirt paired with white pants and her brother Agastya Nanda wore a white shirt.

The brother-sister duo completed the entry formalities before making their way into the building.

Agastya and Suhana recently made their acting debut with Zoya Akhtar's directorial film 'The Archies' which also starred Boney Kapoor's daughter Khushi Kapoor.

'The Archies' follows the lives of Archie, Betty, Veronica, Jughead, Reggie, Ethel, and Dilton and takes audiences to the fictional hilly town of Riverdale. The film explores friendship, freedom, love, heartbreak, and rebellion. —ANI



Together, now

Singer-songwriter Ariana Grande and Ethan Slater were spotted together in New York City. The singer and the Broadway star, still have their own homes, but they have been living under one roof as their romance heats up.

A source shared that the pair "vibe together" and enjoy each other's company, reports 'Female First UK'.

The insider shared the development with TMZ. The 'Thank U, Next' hit-maker is due to head back to England next year to resume filming her pair of 'Wicked' films, whilst Ethan is starring in a stage production of 'Spamalot'

back on Broadway.

It's unclear if Ethan will jet across the pond to be with his girlfriend in London.

As per 'Female First UK', Ariana split from her husband Dalton Gomez in January after two years of marriage before moving on with Ethan, who she has been working with on 'Wicked'. Ariana has been working on her follow-up to 2020's 'Positions'. IANS



All heart



Actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has poured her heart out, and shared how her whole life revolves around her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan. The 'Asoka' actress also revealed her favourite memory with her better half.

Saif appeared with his mother Sharmila Tagore on the chat show 'Koffee With Karan' season 8, when viewers got to witness a slice-of-life kind of conversation.

But one big highlight from the episode was the video of the family members that was played. Especially, what Kareena said about her husband Saif left many hearts melting.

While talking about Saif, Kareena poured her heart out and teared up, saying: "He is my entire being, my entire universe. My whole life revolves around my Saif. My eyes well up every time I talk about him because he is my life."

Talking about her first-ever meeting with the 'Dil Chahta Hai' actor, the 'Bodyguard' actress revealed in the video: "My favorite memory will always be the first time I met Saif. We were shooting in Ladakh, and he was sitting shirtless on top of the vanity van." —IANS



Another language

Dheekshith Shetty is all set to make his debut in Malayalam films with the movie OPPEES. The muhurat function of OPPEES was held in Kerala recently. The movie is to be helmed by Soujan Joseph and bankrolled by Pradyumna Kollegal.

"Some producers and directors met me after watching my performance in the Telugu movie Dasara. Among the scripts narrated to me, I liked the script of OPPEES. It is a psycho-



logical thriller and is very interesting. As of now I am preparing to understand and speak Malayalam," says Dheekshith.

Dheekshith said he has dubbed dialogues in Telugu for Dasara. "I will try my best to dub my dialogues in Malayalam for this movie. My theater background will help me memorise dialogues of any language. The movie is expected to go on floors in February," he said.

He is known for his role in Kannada movie Dia of 2020. His other Kannada movie KTM is scheduled for release on February 8 and another movie Blink is scheduled for release on March 8. He has also acted in Kannada movie Bank of Bhagyalakshmi.

On road rage

The muhurat function of the movie Friday was held at Dharmagiri Sri Manjunatha Temple in Banashankari on Wednesday. The movie has two directors Keerthi Shekhar and Vyshak Pushpalatha. Friday is being made under the Dees Films and Shoolin Media banners.

"The movie revolves around unfortunate road rage incidents happening in cities. A couple goes to a theater to watch a movie on Friday. They are trou-



bled by miscreants while watching the movie. Unable to cope with the nuisance, the couple goes out of the theater. What happens to the couple is the movie's plot," said creative producer Gangadhar Salimath.

Vyshak Pushpalatha, one of the directors, said Friday is a very important day for movie directors, producers, and movie-goers. "I wrote the script. Keerthi Sekhar and I wrote the screenplay. The movie will go on floors in the first week of January. The shooting is planned in and around Bengaluru.

Madhusudhan Govind, Shruthi Prakash, and Gopal Krishna Deshpande are the important cast," said Vyshak Pushpalatha.

Keerthi Sekhar has said the movie is suspense thriller and it has three songs.